



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District

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Abele's Scheme to Rezone and Sell Parkland is Undemocratic

MILWAUKEE – It was reported late Monday night that Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett have agreed on plan to circumvent existing County Board policy and transfer ownership of the Estabrook Park dam from the County to the City, in order to demolish the dam.

Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., released the following statement.

“Once again, Chris Abele has cooked up a clandestine end-run around the legislative branch just to get his way.

On its face, this is undemocratic: it substitutes an unelected body (MMSD) and political appointees in place of citizens’ elected representatives.

If the County Executive is now using his new powers to sell parkland through complicated schemes like this one, what other parkland is at risk? Should citizens also be concerned that the highly valuable Lake Park or South Shore Park might be sold?

There are significant legal and practical questions about this scheme as well, including who takes on the liabilities, such as property owners \$12 million claim for lost value, and who will remediate the miles of effected shoreline in the impacted park?”

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